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Letter dated 27 July 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a letter, dated 20 July 2011, from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Jean Ping, requesting the transmission of the communiqué of the 286th meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council, which took place on 19 July 2011 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

Letter dated 20 July 2011 from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward, herewith, the communiqué adopted by the 286th meeting of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC), which took place on 19 July 2011, to review the situation in Darfur and the operations of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) (see enclosure).

As you will observe in the communiqué, the Peace and Security Council, in renewing the mandate of UNAMID for one year at the end of its current term, on 31 July, in line with the hybrid nature of the Operation, also urged the United Nations Security Council to take similar action at its forthcoming meeting on 22 July 2011. This is all the more important given the critical role that UNAMID continues to play, including regarding the protection of civilians in Darfur, and the increasing contribution expected from the mission in the coming months, particularly with respect to the implementation of the Doha document for peace in Darfur and efforts to make it more inclusive, the launching of the Darfur political process, building on the encouraging outcome of the Doha process, early recovery and other related tasks. As Darfurians continue to strive for the achievement of peace in their region, it is critical that our two organizations continue to stand by them and support their efforts, in particular through the continued presence of UNAMID.

I would like to seize this opportunity to seek your support and that of the Security Council, in order to facilitate the effective launching of the Darfur political process, which was one of the key recommendations of the African Union High-level Panel on Darfur. The Darfur political process, which was endorsed at the highest level by the African Union, including at the 17th ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held recently in Malabo, provides, in our view, the best opportunity to consolidate the gains made so far, ensure ownership by the Sudanese in resolving their own problems and empower the various stakeholders, as well as achieve an inclusive and comprehensive settlement addressing the interrelated issues of peace, justice and reconciliation in Darfur, in its communiqué, and as a follow-up to earlier pronouncements of the African Union on the Darfur political process, the Peace and Security Council strongly appealed to the Security Council and its members to rally behind this initiative, which will be implemented on the ground by the AU High-level Implementation Panel and UNAMID.

While we should continue to urge all stakeholders, including the Government of the Sudan, to do everything in their power to create a conducive environment for the success of this initiative, it is equally important to bear in mind that making the launching of the Doha political process contingent upon the fulfilment of certain preconditions will be counter-productive to our joint efforts. Indeed, such preconditions have the potential to provide room for spoilers to undermine the quest for peace, to defeat the principle of ownership by the Sudanese stakeholders and to make it impossible to grasp opportunities, as they arise, to advance peace, justice and reconciliation in Darfur.

I would be most grateful if you could urgently circulate the Peace and Security Council communiqué to the members of the Security Council before their impending meeting so that they can take it into consideration and reflect the African Union's position and views when considering the renewal of UNAMID's mandate.

Let me seize this opportunity to, once again, reiterate the appreciation of the African Union to the United Nations and to you, personally, for your continued commitment to the promotion of lasting peace, security and stability on our continent.

(*Signed*) Jean **Ping**

Enclosure

Communiqué of the 286th meeting of the Peace and Security Council

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 286th meeting, held on 19 July 2011, considered the situation in Darfur and the activities of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), and adopted the following decision:

The Council,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Darfur [PSC/PR/2(CCLXXXVI)], and the statements made by the Joint AU-UN Special Representative for UNAMID, Professor Ibrahim Gambari, and the representative of the Government of the Sudan;

2. **Recalls** its previous decisions and communiqués on the situation in Darfur;

3. **Notes with satisfaction** the progress made in the deployment of UNAMID military and police components, which have now reached 18,002 and 2,751, that is 92% and 73%, respectively, of the total authorized strength, as well as the civilian component, which has reached 4,466, representing 82% of the authorized strength. The Council **also takes note** of the new robust policy of UNAMID in implementing its mandate, and **expresses satisfaction** with the positive results thus far achieved;

4. **Expresses concern** at the prevailing insecurity in some parts of Darfur, leading to the loss of human lives and the displacement of civilian populations, with the attendant negative impact on the humanitarian situation. The Council **appeals** to all parties concerned to urgently exercise maximum restraint and refrain from any action likely to aggravate the security situation on the ground;

5. **Strongly condemns** the recent attacks on the personnel of UNAMID and that against humanitarian agencies operating in Darfur, including the attempted ambush by unknown elements, on 30 June 2011, which resulted in the death of an Ethiopian peacekeeper. The Council **calls on** the Government of the Sudan to spare no efforts to identify the perpetrators of these criminal acts and bring them to justice;

6. **Commends** the efforts of the AU-UN Joint Special Representative for UNAMID, Professor Ibrahim Gambari, and his continued focused and dedicated leadership, as well as those of the personnel of the Mission, for their dedication and contribution to the promotion of lasting peace, security and reconciliation in Darfur, including through the holding of the first-ever International Water Conference on Darfur and the launching of "*Operation Spring Basket*";

7. **Stresses** that achieving peace in Darfur is a matter of urgency, recognizing that the people of Darfur have been waiting for peace for too long. In this respect, the Council notes with satisfaction the conclusion of the Doha political talks, in particular the signing of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) by the Government of the Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement, on 14 July 2011, as a positive development that will greatly contribute to the promotion of peace and security in Darfur. The Council commends both the Government of the Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement for their commitment and for putting the interests of the Darfurian people above any other consideration. The Council **also commends** the former Joint Chief Mediator, Mr. Djibril Bassole, as

well as the Government of Qatar, in particular Mr. Ahmed Bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, for their tireless efforts;

8. **Appeals** to the other armed movements to join the peace process and adhere to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. In this respect, the Council encourages the African Union and the United Nations to pursue their efforts aimed at bringing on board the armed movements that have not yet joined the peace process. The Council **welcomes** the recent appointment of Professor Ibrahim Gambari as the Joint Chief Mediator ad interim, and **looks forward** to the early formalization of this appointment;

9. **Reiterates** all earlier African Union decisions and pronouncements, including the relevant paragraph of the decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa, adopted by the 17th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Malabo, from 30 June to 1 July 2011, relating to the Darfur Political Process (DPP). The Council, once again, **stresses** the need to fully launch the DPP, building on the positive outcome of the Doha process, as a way of sustaining the progress made so far and ensuring that the Darfuris truly own the quest for peace, justice and reconciliation in their region;

10. **Requests** the AU High-level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) on the Sudan and UNAMID to intensify their efforts for the launching of the DPP, including the preparatory work and the consultations with the Government of the Sudan and other stakeholders, to ensure the creation of an environment that will enable all constituents to freely participate in the process. The Council **stresses** the primary responsibility of the Government of the Sudan, **welcomes** its expressed commitment to spare no efforts in this regard, including the early lifting of the state of emergency in Darfur, and **urges** it to extend all necessary cooperation to the High-level Implementation Panel and UNAMID;

11. **Reiterates** the call made by the 17th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government to the AU partners, in particular the United Nations Security Council and its members, to fully support the DPP, which has been endorsed at the highest level by the AU, and to take the steps expected of them to facilitate the work of the High-level Implementation Panel and UNAMID in this respect. While recognizing the need to create a conducive environment for the success of the DPP, the Council **strongly urges** all members of the international community to fully support the DPP, without making its launching contingent upon the fulfilment of preconditions that have the potential to provide room for spoilers to undermine the quest for peace, defeat the principle of ownership by the Sudanese stakeholders, and make it impossible to grasp opportunities to advance the cause of peace, justice and reconciliation in Darfur. The Council **stresses** that the launching of the DPP will empower the Sudanese stakeholders and make it possible to create the peaceful environment the people of Darfur are yearning for;

12. **Decides** to extend, for a further period of 12 months, the mandate of UNAMID, as defined by communiqué PSC/PR/Comm(LXXIX) of the 79th meeting of the Peace and Security Council, held on 22 June 2007, and United Nations Security Council resolution 1769 (2007) of 31 July 2007. The Council **requests** the United Nations Security Council to do the same, bearing in mind the central role that UNAMID plays on the ground, particularly with respect to the protection of civilians, and the increasing contribution expected from the Mission to advance the

search for lasting peace in Darfur, including support for the implementation of the DPDD, the launching of the DPP, early recovery and facilitation of the return and reintegration of internally displaced persons and refugees, building on the encouraging trend already observed on the ground;

13. **Requests** the Commission to actively follow up on the implementation of this decision and to mobilize all necessary support in this respect. The Council **further requests** the Commission and UNAMID to report to it regularly on progress made, including the implementation of the DDPD, the effective launching of the DPP, challenges that may be encountered in this respect and the extent of support received from international partners, as well as the implementation of UNAMID mandate for the next 12 months, starting from 31 July 2011;

14. **Decides** to remain actively seized of this matter.